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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A decoding device for analyzing communication protocols comprising:

a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the generic decoder being adapted to interpret the protocol descriptions; and

a specific decoder designed for a certain protocol description, the specific decoder supplementing the generic decoder in realtime, and the generic and specific decoders being reversibly connected so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.

2. (Previously Presented) The decoding device as recited in claim 1 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function that is overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder.

3. (Previously Presented) The decoding device as recited in claim 2 wherein the one overlaid element function is interpreted by the generic decoder.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a decoding device comprising the steps of:

provisioning a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the protocol descriptions being interpreted by the generic decoder;

provisioning a specific decoder for a certain protocol description, the specific decoder supplementing the generic decoder in realtime; and

reversibly connecting the generic and specific decoders to form the decoding device ~~so that the generic and specific decoders may be updated separately.~~

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the generic decoder comprises at least one element function overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder during connection of the generic decoding with the specific decoder.